

# Fiscal Flyer

CFMA-Issue 3

December 2004

## MAKING YOUR LUNCH RESERVATIONS

Your **lunch reservations** should be made using the Internet. Visit the CFMA luncheons web page (see link below) and click on the "Place Setting." You can register each month or sign up for all the lunches in one visit. Please register by 12 PM on the Wednesday before the lunch. If you need to cancel after you register, please email Dottie Relaford before noon on the Wednesday before the lunch. [dottie.relaford@state.co.us](mailto:dottie.relaford@state.co.us).  
<http://www.state.co.us/cfma/Luncheons/lunch.htm>



### December Luncheon

Place: Beef Palace – Serving Smoked Top Round of Beef and BBQ Chicken

Time: December 2, 2004 11:45am -1:30pm

Speaker: Bruce Smith, Dept of Regulatory Agencies

Topic: Public utilities and homeland Security



## President's Corner By *Roger A. Cusworth*

It is hard to believe that we are already in December. The year is flying by. I am almost half way through my term as President, which is probably good news for some. So I figure it is about time for a State of CFMA. While there have not been any earth shattering breakthroughs, I believe CFMA has had a very successful fall. Our membership continues to remain strong, even though we have seen the retirement of some long time members. Six very deserving students received Tim Smith Scholarships to help them further their college education. Based on the evaluations, the Fall Conference was an overwhelming success. We had over 200 participants, some very useful topics, and all for a very reasonable price ... FREE. My thanks to Mindy Densmore for her leadership and the volunteers that worked with her. Even with the free conference, CFMA's fund balance remains healthy. We will publish our balance sheet and income statement as of December 31 in the next newsletter.

On the horizon, we have the annual Bowl-A-Thon, the joint CFMA/CIMA/CSMA Spring Conference, and elections for next year's officers. The Bowl-A-Thon and the Spring Conference are in the planning stages and with your involvement, I am sure they will be as successful as years past. Registration for the Bowl-A-Thon will begin in February. The Spring Conference planning committee has narrowed the location for the conference to two sites, Grand Junction or Breckenridge. The final decision will have been made by the time you read this newsletter. There is still a lot of planning left, so if you are interested in volunteering, please contact a CFMA board member.

As this holiday season approaches, I hope it brings you peace and joy. For our armed forces, may each of them be protected from harm and may they know that regardless of a person's view about the war, the support and prayers of the American people are with them.

Happy Holidays !!!!!



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## The Bean Counter's Underground Press

By Alan Boisvert

Now that the election is over a large number of people have been asking me questions about Canada. Realizing that I am of French Canadian descent they believe that I would be supportive of their inquiries about immigrating to Canada. Naturally, I just view them as a bunch of sore losers who probably should just try immigrating to one of the blue states that does maple syrup before they decide to throw their lot in with a bunch of people who don't even chuckle when someone mentions the town of Moose Jaw.

I thought I should also point out a few facts about Canada first so people could make up their minds before they called or dropped by to chat about the Great White North.

Just a couple of years ago I drove through British Columbia (B.C.), Alberta, and the Yukon. At that time gas there was approximately \$0.70 and the speed limit was 100. What does that mean to you? Well, do the math. At that time the Canadian dollar was worth \$0.64 U.S. and there are about 4 liters in a gallon. Thus, gas was \$2.80 Canadian (C) for gas, or about \$1.80 a gallon U.S. I thought that was a ridiculously high price. Oh, how times have changed.

Today the Canadian dollar is worth \$0.84 U.S., and gas in Colorado sells for \$2.00 a gallon U.S. and for \$1.00 C a liter in Fort Nelson B.C. So that Fort Nelson gallon would cost you \$3.36 U.S. today. The lesson here is that a weaker dollar has made vacationing in Miami easier for Canadians, but going to dinner in Montreal will cost you a lot more if your income comes from PERA.

Canada is a pretty nice country but it's not perfect. Winters are long and cold. Hugging and kissing in public are frowned upon. You have to drive with your lights on 24/7, and you can't deduct mortgage interest on your taxes. You have to spell color as "colour" and check as "cheque." If you can't handle this then you'll never be able to make the switch to the metric system. Oh, by the way, that 100 speed limit are those little red numbers on the inner part of your speedometer, not the miles that you are use to. Also, the road signs are in English and French. Which seems pretty dumb when I saw a sign for a glacier when read on the top "Pierre's Glacier" in English and repeated on the bottom "Pierre's Glacier" which is French for "Pierre's Glacier."

However, O Canada is a lot easier to sing than The Star-Spangled Banner. If curling is your life and you missed the fifties, then Canada may be for you. You just have to remember not to make fun of Canadian football, wear immodest bathing attire, or drink straight from the bottle. Basically, you can still be an American in Canada; you just have to tone it down a little. So if you like the thought of one-payer health insurance, flying hassle

free to Cuba, or being photographed with a Mountie, give me a call and we can chat. I'll need to explain to you that in Canada, the Loon is on the back of the dollar, not managing it.



"The opinions expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Colorado Fiscal Managers Association, its Board, or its members."

2003 - 2004

OFFICERS

President	Roger A. Cusworth
Vice President	Mindy Densmore
Secretary	Lavynia Washington
Treasurer	Mary Pearce



E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR THE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS CAN BE FOUND ON THE CFMA WEBSITE:

[HTTP://WWW.STATE.CO.US/CFMA/HOME.HTM](http://www.state.co.us/cfma/home.htm)

*"Attend three CFMA luncheons this year and get the 4<sup>th</sup> lunch free!" – CFMA Board*

*CFMA's very popular buy three get one free lunch program is in place for the upcoming year. If you attend all eight lunches this year, CFMA will pay for two of them. To assist in the record Keeping process, please register each month using the Web site registration and be sure to use the same name. For example, Roger Cusworth and Roger A Cusworth are treated as two people in the database used to track free lunches. You also need to be sure you check in each time you attend a luncheon.*

*In case you are wondering, your attendance from last year does not carry over to this year.*

## 2004 CFMA

### Fall Educational Conference A Success

The Fall Conference committee extends thanks to all who attended the seminar at the Arvada Center on October 26. The seminar evaluations are being reviewed – we appreciate your feedback in order to continue to provide professional and relevant educational sessions.

A Big Thanks to all of our volunteers, including Shamaine Ali, Joann Vondracek and Logene Williams for handling the registration desk, Caroline Joseph for formatting and printing the name tags, and the FAST team for assembling the seminar packets and managing the registration website. The Colorado State Employees Credit Union provided seminar supplies and Central Services did a great job printing the seminar materials. As always, we appreciate the ongoing financial support of PERA, the 457 Plan, the Credit Union and Central Services to help offset the cost of the conference.

As usual, David Bean, from GASB, provided a very informative and lively update on the happenings at GASB. It takes someone like David to make GASB updates interesting. It is also nice to know that at least one person, outside the State, reads our CAFR each year. The sessions on Activity Based Costing and Management and Finding Your Balance in the Changing Workforce provided a nice change of pace from the traditional Fall Conference topics. For those of you needing ethics, Dan Chenowith provided the attendees with some thought provoking ideas and real world examples of potential ethical dilemmas.

While the Conference is still somewhat fresh in your mind, please provide the Board with topics for future conferences.

The PowerPoint presentations for the basic seminar are available on the CFMA Website.



*"If civilization is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationships - the ability of all peoples, of all kinds, to live together, in the same world at peace. "*

*~ Franklin D. Roosevelt*